

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Bassi called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Member Paxton arrived at 8:45 a.m.

Present 6 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Absent 1 - Member Nixon

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Bob Skidmore, Treasurer

James McCullough, Treasurer's Office

Marty Buehler, Division of Transportation

Al Giertych, Division of Transportation

Luke Stowe, County Clerk's Office

Debra Nieto, County Clerk's Office

Gary Reis, Purchasing Agent

Keith Devore, CAO Intern

Cyndi Barrera, citizen

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Bassi led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 **09-2077**

Minutes from August 5, 2009

Attachments: [RRL 08.05.09](#)

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, that the minutes from August 5, 2009 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

3.2 **09-2078**

Minutes from September 2, 2009

Attachments: [RRL 09.02.09](#)

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, that the minutes from September 2, 2009 be approved. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

3.3 [09-2040](#)

RRL and F&A joint budget minutes from September 23, 2009

Attachments: [RRL & F&A Joint Budget minutes 09.23.09](#)

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, that the joint budget minutes from September 23, 2009 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

4. Public Comment

5. Added to Agenda

6. Old Business

7. New Business

County Clerk:

7.1 [09-2003](#)

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of July 2009.

Attachments: [County Clerk July 2009 Report](#)

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

7.2 [09-2004](#)

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of August 2009.

Attachments: [County Clerk August 2009 Report](#)

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

7.3 [09-2002](#)

Resolution amending and designating the voting sites assigned to the 481 voting precincts in Lake County townships.

Attachments: [October 2009 Exhibit A](#)

Luke Stowe presented a resolution designating voting sites that recommends a new polling place location for Waukegan Township 381.

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Taylor, that this resolution be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

7.4 [09-2071](#)

Joint Resolution authorizing a two-year contract with renewals, with Federal Companies of Waukegan, IL for delivery services and storage of election supplies for the Lake County Clerk in the estimated amount of \$79,072 per year.

Debra Nieto explained this resolution.

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Recorder of Deeds:

7.5 [09-1940](#)

Report of Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds, for the month of August 2009.

Attachments: [SRDP36C209091511590.tif](#)

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Carey, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Treasurer:

7.6 [09-2022](#)

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of August 2009.

Attachments: [August 2009 Treasurer Cash and Investment Report.pdf](#)
[Treasurers Cash Investment Aug08 2.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Carey, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Bob Skidmore gave a brief update on the status of tax collections. (Member Paxton entered the meeting at 8:45 a.m.) He reported that they are going into the delinquency process and they will have to send certified letters to every person. Due to the postage cost, they plan to send a postcard first to hopefully have some of them taken care of prior to the certified letter being sent. He then stated that if people make a partial payment after the second installment is due, they send them a letter with important dates that they need to meet to keep their home from going to the tax sale. He reported that they have not received money from the state for the senior deferrals and he doesn't expect to get that money before the tax sale. With about 300 participants, this amounts to a little over \$1 million. In this scenario, the taxing bodies will not get paid. He assured the Committee that he does not intend to send properties of those participating in the senior deferral to the property sale. He also reported that a mortgage company with over 400 Lake County customers who recently filed bankruptcy was taken over by Bank of America. It is hoped that the Bank of American will make the tax payments to avoid sending the involved properties to sale.

Legislation:

7.7 Discussion of State Legislation Program

Chief County Assessment Officer Marty Paulson reported that they are anticipating as many as 12,000 appeals to be filed this year and are also anticipating more change requests from township assessors. He addressed the Committee regarding the following items:

Altering the Residency Requirement for Additional Board of Review Members – This proposed change would amend the residency requirement for Lake, Du Page, Kane and McHenry counties to allow the additional members appointed to the Board of Review to come from not only the county that has the need for these resources, but also any Illinois counties that border the above mentioned counties. This is primarily due to the volume of appeals being filed, and would help us get the appeal process done in a timely fashion so that property tax bills can be completed on time. This is being recommended as a support initiative.

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption - Mr. Paulson reported that we have about 30,000 seniors; about 10,500 of them qualify for the senior assessment freeze. This legislation proposes that if an applicant was successful in obtaining the freeze for two consecutive years, they would not have to re-apply. Should a senior who

has an assessment freeze sell their home and move to a new home in the same County, they would calculate the percentage benefit from the freeze on the property sold and have it transferred to the purchased property. Chair Bassi expressed her concern about it being only two years and that there is nothing in place that triggers a reapplication if you qualify before you're 72 since their income could increase if they delay retirement account withdrawals until they are 70 ½. She would like to see them re-qualify after three years or reapply if you qualify before you are 72. Mr. Paulson suggested having seniors re-qualify every 5 years or when they reach the age of 72. Chair Bassi stated that she, Chairman Schmidt and staff will be meeting with our legislators soon and will discuss this issue with them. This is being recommended as a Lake County sponsored initiative.

Publication of Assessments in Local Newspapers – Mr. Paulson stated that we need to make legislators aware that it is costing Lake County approximately \$150,000 to publish all taxable real estate parcels in general assessment years. This is being recommended as a support initiative.

Lake County Transportation State Projects – Marty Buehler reviewed the list of priority projects being recommended. It was recommended that Route 41 be added to the project requests for IDOT's SFY2011-2016 program as a regional project. This is being recommended as an opportunity to support initiative.

Lake County Transportation Route 120 Project – Marty Buehler discussed. This is being recommended as a Lake County sponsored initiative.

Cell Tower Use & Municipality Veto Power - This proposal, which has periodically been sponsored within the last decade, has gone nowhere. Mr. Waggoner explained that the cell tower proliferation in the unincorporated area is becoming a municipal problem because they don't like them. They are trying to build a relationship with municipal groups to try to get legislation that would give them the limited ability to have veto power. There are two recommended options: 1) give the county the same authority that municipalities have or 2) sponsor legislation that would statutorily authorize the nearest municipality within 1.5 miles to have "veto power" on a request for a proposed cell tower on nearby unincorporated land. These are being recommended as support initiatives.

Amy McEwan touched on the following:

2010 Lake County Sponsored Initiatives:

Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund – The Affordable Housing Commission and a coalition of other groups have been working on this initiative. Committee members expressed concern that this should be grouped with initiatives to support. Mr. Burton stated that this is a Lake County initiative and is being sponsored by Representative Garrett. Chair Bassi stated that we would provide the coalition with support. She said that they will get feedback from the legislators and then decide where to list this item.

2010 Initiatives to Support:

DUI Law Clarification – We will be supporting a coalition of Judges.

Unaltered IDOT crash reports to federal, state, and local agencies requesting them – we will work with Highway Commissioners in this regard.

Use of Reclaimed Water – We are supporting the Forest Preserve.

2010 Look for Opportunities to Support Related Initiatives:

Water Safety and Enforcement Fee/License – Boat Length Fee – This issue is specific to Lake County, and Ms. McEwan stated that they hope to meet with the IDNR to discuss this issue.

Tax Credit for Jury Duty Service – Ms. McEwan stated that this request was developed by the Courts in response to legislation that was proposed by others that we did not agree with.

Brownfield Property Late Penalty Write-Off – As in previous years, this request is not likely to move.

Policy Issues:

Restore and Protect Medicaid Funding for Nursing Homes – We are opposing any proposed cuts in Medicaid funding.

No Diversion of Road Funds – We are opposing any diversion of road funds.

Statewide Wetland Regulations – Oppose any legislation that would pre-empt existing County authority.

2010 Deleted Items:

Wind Farm Statutes

Authority for County Boards to Provide Supportive Human Services through Imposition of Taxpayer Authorized Levy

Coroner's Fees

Plat Act Clarification

Constitutional Amendment Regarding Home Rule Status for Counties

Increase the Court System Fee and the Probation Service Fee

There was a motion by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Pedersen, to delete the above items from the program. Motion carried.

7.8 Discussion of Federal Legislative Program

There was no discussion of the Federal Program at today's meeting.

- 8. Executive Session
- 9. County Administrator's Report
- 10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Taylor, that the meeting adjourn at 10:00 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee